Concern

1954
No. 6

Cover Photo

They may not look as though they have a burning question in mind, but they do—"Is this the one for me?" Information about the answer is on page 6.

In this issue--

Watch Night service

Convocation 1955

UN seminars

Christmas cards

Student meeting

Concern

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5

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Wandering around

The *tall* NCMY projects secretary (many of you know that LeRoy King is 6'8" before stretching) has a six-year-old daughter whose memory about a long-ago TV program astonished Father King. "How did you remember that?" he asked. Her answer was as serious as it was quick: "Daddy, *I think!*"

A man in Virginia has decided what he will do about Senator McCarthy. It's non-violent and interesting. A restaurant proprietor, the Virginian has written to the senator that he will buy no cheese, butter, beer or other Wisconsin product until Joe Goes. The letter-writer says, "The people of Wisconsin put you there; let them get rid of you."

Did you see this story from La Jolla, Calif.? "The note with the five cents in the collection plate at First Baptist Church read: '1 cent to building fund, 1 cent to preacher, 3 cents to God.' (signed) Bobby."

Last May CONCERN carried a letter from Lt. Charles H. Burlingame, whose address has been discarded from our files recently. This week there came a belated response to Lt. Burlingame's letter-to-CONCERN—if he or a friend will let us know where to forward the new letter, we will do so right away.

CONCERN is interested in having contributions in the "Views" department from young people. Some of you are paying a lot of attention to current events and ideas and are working out attitudes and responses to them. Some of you also know stories that would make excellent news features for CONCERN—if we had the material we would use it. As the news publication of The National Conference of Methodist Youth (which includes both MYF and MSM), CONCERN's columns are open to young people. Write to us—you may not be able to express yourself as well as you'd like, but your idea may be worth a lot to another young person.

Very last-minute report: We regret that John Brademas of Indiana, subject of our feature in the Oct. 29 issue of CONCERN, did not win election to Congress. Comment later.

Convocation theme: "Our witness--"

LeRoy King named director

The word goes out this week on the 1955 National Convocation of Methodist Youth.

It will be Aug. 22-26, at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind.

The theme will be "Our Christian Witness in the World of Struggle."

It will be attended by 4,000 youth and students, and 1,000 adult leaders.

LeRoy King, projects secretary of the National Conference of Methodist Youth, has been chosen to serve as director of the 1955 Convocation, which is sponsored by NCMY.

He is being assisted in the tremendous planning work by many persons from Methodism's boards and agencies, and committee meetings are being conducted every other week.

Publicity is now being sent to adult leaders in all conferences and states, to camp planning personnel, to board staff members, and many others.

The cost of the Convocation to delegates will be $5.50 for registration and insurance, and $23 for room and meals, in addition to travel expenses. There will be housing for everyone in the beautiful Purdue University dormitories.

Registration is to be through conference directors of youth work and state directors of student work, and may be made at any time. Director King (Shorty, that is, in deference to his five-feet-twenty) urges all interested persons to "sign up early and avoid a line-up."

Program planning includes:

★ Inspirational leadership by Dr. James Thomas, Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, Bishop Gerald Kennedy, Harold Ehrensperger and others.

★ Participation of Christians of outstanding witness.

★ Countless discussion groups.

★ Both individual and group counseling.

★ Spiritual fellowship.

★ Afternoon and evening recreation.

★ A dramatic production.

★ A film to remember.

★ A huge unified display of Methodist service through the church's boards and agencies.

★ A communion service.

This is the sixth convocation for Methodist youth and students. The fifth also was at Purdue, in August, 1951, with about the same number in attendance.

Student Seminar February 6-12

The eighth annual Christian Citizenship Seminar for Students, sponsored by the Methodist Student Movement, will be Feb. 6-12, 1955, in New York and Washington, D. C.

Preliminary announcement has been sent to Methodist student workers on campuses across the country, and from the students indicating their interest in attending, 50 will be chosen.

Wayne Cowan of New York is chairman of the student planning committee for the seminar for the second time, having also served in 1952.

Miss Dorothy Nyland, secretary of

student work in the Woman's Division of Christian Service of the Methodist Board of Missions (sswWDCSMBM), is "advisor general" for the seminar, which is planned to help students understand national and world issues in the light of Christian principles.

Included in the seminar will be briefing sessions with members of the United Nations Secretariat, a tour of the UN buildings, conferences with delegates from several countries, attendance at Security Council sessions, interviews with congressmen, and visits to committee hearings, the State Department, foreign embassies, and sessions of Congress. The final day will be spent in evaluation and discussions of the next step in the local group of each person attending the seminar.

Registration fee for the seminar is $1.50, and cost of hotel, meals, and in-city travel is estimated at $46.50. In addition there will be transportation costs, including train fare from New York to Washington. Applications must be made by Dec. 15 with Miss Nyland.

Churches send 8,000 tons relief

American churches have shipped more than 16,000,000 pounds of food, clothing and medical supplies to the hungry and homeless people around the world the first nine months of this year.

The total was reported by Dr. Wynn C. Fairfield, executive director of Church World Service, international relief wing of the National Council of Churches.

Shipments by U. S. Protestant and Eastern Orthodox communions through CWS totaled 16,139,871 pounds and were conservatively valued at $8,187,-450. Included were nearly eight and one-half million pounds of U. S. surplus commodities made available free by the government.

Relief shipments from the 35 member denominations of CWS (including MCOR) were made possible by specific gifts from individual churches, by funds contributed through One Great Hour of Sharing, and by contributions to the Christian Rural Overseas Program (CROP).

NEWS

U. S. alcoholics increase 47%

In 1940 there were 2,632,000 alcoholics in the United States. By 1950 the number had jumped to 3,876,000 and was still climbing.

These figures are the results of studies made by Dr. E. M. Jellinek, former director of the Yale School of Alcohol Studies and now Consultant on Alcoholism to the World Health Organization of the United Nations.

The 1950 estimate, as yet unpublished, includes 3,280,000 males and 596,000 females.

New stamps to honor Schweitzer

A special set of commemorative postage stamps will be issued soon by the Principality of Monaco to honor the missionary work of Dr. Albert Schweitzer. There will be four stamps in the series.

One will show the landing at Lambarene where Dr. Schweitzer's missionary station is located. The second will present a portrait of Dr. Schweitzer against a background of tropical plants and animals. The hospital at Lambarene will be also pictured, and an air mail stamp will show a medallion portrait of Dr. Schweitzer against a tropical background.

This is the first time this predominantly Roman Catholic principality, famous for its colorful stamps, has honored a Protestant.

N. Y. Pastor serves 35 years

St. Paul's Methodist Church in Long Island City, N. Y., a thriving witness to evangelism practised by early Italian immigrants, recently paid tribute to the Rev. Antonio Sartorio, on his thirty-fifth anniversary as pastor.

Mr. Sartorio's tenure in St. Paul's pulpit is the second longest in the New York Area and is surpassed only by the 38 years of the Rev. Ralph W. Sockman at Christ Church, New York City.

MYF Seminars Feb. 20-Mar. 5

Are you a member of a conference MYF council?

Or a conference, district or subdistrict chairman of Christian Outreach or Citizenship?

You are eligible to attend one of the 1955 MYF UN-Washington Seminars sponsored by the Youth Department of the General Board of Education, the Board of World Peace and the National Conference of Methodist Youth.

The first MYF seminar will be Feb. 20-26, 1955, for conference MYF presidents, conference chairmen of Christian Outreach and Citizenship, conference directors of youth work, and conference secretaries of youth work of the W.S.C.S.

The second seminar, from Feb. 27 to Mar. 5, will be for conference council officers, district and sub-district Outreach and Citizenship chairmen, and a limited number of district and sub-district adult leaders in the same areas as the first seminar.

New York highlights of the seminars will include a tour of the United Nations buildings and attendance at UN committee sessions, briefing at the headquarters of the United States Mission to the UN, a visit to the Board of Missions offices, a sukiyaki dinner at the Japanese Methodist church, and fellowship with students from other countries.

In Washington the groups will visit sessions of both Houses of Congress, the Board of Temperance headquarters and Congressional committee hearings; be briefed at the state Department; interview senators and representatives; worship at the Lincoln Memorial; and meet with an ambassador.

In addition to transportation to New York, then to Washington, and back home, it is expected that minimum expenses of the seminar will be about $40—hotel, meals, tips, baggage check and fares on subway and buses.

Registration cards are available from the Youth Department, Box 871, Nashville 2. Be sure to state which seminar you are eligible to attend, and get your registration in soon.

RSV Bible two years after

A book that has broken all U. S. publishing records—with indications that it will go on doing so—is the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, introduced to the nation at 3,300 community observances Sept 30, 1952.

Today it is possessor of an all-time sales record of nearly 3,000,000 copies in a two-year span.

New lodging for Drew students

Drew University at Madison, N. J., has laid the cornerstone for a new $580,000 apartment dormitory for theological students.

Contributions from 946 Methodist churches in the Troy, New York, New York East and Newark Conferences have made the project possible.

No, these kids aren't packing the results of their Hallowe'en trick-or-treat — they are actors in the new film strip, "Junior High Friendships," which is part of the series described on the next page.

Cold, hungry? Warm, stuffed?

This coming Sunday, American Methodism will respond to the Bishops' Appeal for Korea, a special opportunity for well-fed, warmly-clothed Methodists to share with persons who are literally starving and freezing to death in Korea every day. Every cent you give Sunday during the offering for Korea will help save lives.

Also Sunday, American veterans of the Korean war will be honored in many churches for their "Good Samaritan" gifts and prayers which helped Korean Methodists rebuild churches, hospitals and schools destroyed during the war.

Methodist youth and students also may help provide blankets for Boys' Democratic Town in Korea—a Methodist project for Korean beggar boys from the streets of Seoul and Pusan.

The project houses 360 such boys on Chin OO Do (True Friend) Island just south of Pusan. More than half the boys do not have even one blanket. Contributions for blankets may be made through The Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York 11.

From junior high to family-hood

Five new sound filmstrips have been produced by Methodism for young people and their leaders to use in their discussion groups on dating, engagement and home making.

Titled "Preparation for Marriage," the strips include "Junior High Friendships," "How About a Date?" "Is This the One for Me?" "The Meaning of Engagement," and "Helping Youth Prepare for Marriage."

With the filmstrips are 33⅓ RPM recordings and leader's guides.

Several small churches might share the purchase cost ($35) of the series and by using them with different groups in the churches the average cost would be comparable to rental.

The strips, produced by the Radio and Film Commission of The Methodist Church, are available from the Methodist Publishing House branch film library serving your territory.

To be issued Dec. 10, this stamp will commemorate the sixth anniversary of adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations General Assembly. The stamp will appear in a red-orange three-cent and an olive green eight-cent. Leonard Mitchell of New Zealand was the artist.

You share twice

The National Conference of Methodist Youth, in cooperation with the Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief (MCOR), is selling Christmas cards to increase MCOR funds and to help emphasize the Christianity of Christmas.

Last month sample cards and order blanks were sent to conference and state adult leaders who were asked to pass the word along.

If you have not heard about the cards, write a fast note to the NCMY office (Box 871, Nashville 2) for complete information.

The card invites your friends to help make Christmas more joyous for cold, hungry people in refugee places. You share with friends seen and unseen.

Student workers meet in Nashville

More than 200 professional workers of the Methodist Student Movement came to Methodist headquarters in Nashville Oct. 28 for a five-day seminar.

Every two years or so the group gathers under the auspices of their own Methodist Student Workers' Association and the Department of College and University Religious Life of the Board of Education. Participants are Wesley Foundation directors, directors of campus religious life of church-related schools, professors, college and university administrators, and Methodist staff officers.

"The Christian Witness in the University" was theme for this seminar. In five thought-provoking addresses, Boston School of Theology professor Harold DeWolf led the group in considering our cultural situation today, liberalism and naturalism, the fundamentalist reaction, the neo-orthodox reaction, and our Methodist heritage for today.

Other distinguished platform speakers included Dr. Merrimon Cunniggim, dean of Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, and Dr. Ernest C. Colwell, dean of the faculties at Emory University. Preacher for the group's Sunday morning worship was Robert Hamill, pastor of Ottawa Street church in Joliet, Ill.

For most delegates, the seminar offered two never-to-be-forgotten experiences: a moving concert of sacred music by the Fisk University choir and (three cultural lengths away) a hilarious banquet speech (or rather, a report from Grinders Switch) by the Grand Ol' Opry's favorite girl, Minnie Pearl.

Important business of the seminar was a little involved: action on a 20-page report on a philosophy of student work, submitted by a 14-member committee after five years of preparation. The document included a theological affirmation, and statements on the church's approach to the campus, the general objectives of the college and university religious movement of The Methodist Church, and basic principles of student work.

Even though discussions on the philosophy statement were long and sometimes complicated, the spirit of seminar participants was excellent and many gained new insights into the meaning and mission of student work today.

New officers of the Methodist Student Workers' Association are Glen Otis Martin, Knoxville, Tenn., president; G. Eugene Durham of Evanston, Ill., vice president; Nancy Hope of Williamsburg, Va., secretary; and Robert Sanks of Iowa City, Iowa, treasurer.

MSM in action

N. C. students pledge love

"We urge you not to accept this resolution from committee unless you intend to do something about it."

So simply was introduction made to a resolution adopted by the North Carolina Methodist Student Conference in Salisbury, N. C., Oct. 22-24, as follows:

"We, as a representative body of the Methodist students of North Carolina, reaffirm that discrimination against any person on the basis of race, is unChristian and contrary to God's moral law as revealed in the New Testament.

"Therefore, we will welcome in Christian love and fellowship any person of any race who is admitted to our colleges."

The conference also voted to have the resolution sent to North Carolina newspapers and to presidents of the state's Methodist colleges and colleges with a campus Methodist student organization.

Louisiana party for Cuban couple

Take a Cuban theme, a linen shower for a bride-elect, a wedding cake, and more than 50 students from Louisiana State University, and you have a successful party at the L.S.U. Wesley Foundation—for a couple the group has never met.

A Cuban medical student and his fiancee, in nurse's training, plan a

November marriage and, eventually, establishment of a medical center in rural Cuba. Their story became known to the WF group in Baton Rouge and the party plans resulted. Decoration highlight for the party was a large modernistic mural painted by Mary Lee Russell of Huntsville, Texas.

In addition to a table full of towels, sheets, etc., $23 in cash will be delivered to the couple by a Cuban missionary leaving the United States soon.

University of Texas gets new center

Ground will be broken Dec. 9 for a new Methodist Student Center at the University of Texas, it has been announced at Austin, home of the university.

Total cost of the new plant is estimated at $451,000. Funds will be contributed by Texas Methodism, and the Center will be at the service of 4,000 Methodists on the campus.

A building now on the Center site will be remodeled, and a second new unit may be built.

Programs listed for Purdue WF

Students participating in the Sunday morning coffee hour discussions at Purdue University's Wesley Foundation, West Lafayette, Ind., are concluding a study on "The Unfolding Drama of the Bible" and will begin a series next month on "Christ, the Hope of the World."

The December-January series will deal with issues raised by the World Student Christian Federation and the World Council of Churches at Evanston last summer.

The Sunday evening fellowship programs at the Purdue WF are concluding a four-week emphasis on "Adventures in Christian World Citizenship." Students' potential in the Methodist Crusade for World Order, foreign students cooperating in a "miniature" of United Nations procedures, a Wesley Players presentation on Christian Responsibility for World Community, and a faculty panel have been included in the programs.

The first Sunday evening in December the group will be invited to "Do Your Christmas Thinking Early."

MYF *in action*

Oregon MYF seeks 7,000

Ninety-two MYF presidents in the Oregon Conference went home from their "president's palaver" recently in a glow that amazed counselors and influenced local MYF members to pledge themselves to a statewide campaign: "Each One Win One."

Carried through, that will mean 7,000 Oregon youth who become new MYF members in the next year because of the witness of every one of the present members.

The report on the president's meeting reads: "There come every now and then those mountain-top experiences when we suddenly see very clearly *what* the will of God is . . . That moment came to 92 MYF presidents (who) had worked hard for two days—now gathered for one last hour."

Large and small churches alike were seeking to come to grips with the big problem to help youth develop a more vital faith . . . they had mapped out a tremendous program of meetings (for each program area) believing that they were necessary to accomplish the job . . . Tension mounted—concentration—program would have trendous consequences—responsibility for youth outside church rested on shoulders of each individual MYF'er in Oregon . . .

The presidents knew what was involved . . . praying . . . one wept, unashamed . . . all concentrating . . . great silence . . . then one rose: "I'm scared to death at how big this thing is. But I've never been more challenged by anything in my whole life! I can hardly wait to get home!" District training conferences in the "Each One Win One" program were set up at once.

Oregon MYF'ers are busy on speeches for the state-wide oratorical contest: "The Christian Witness Which Must Be Made in My High School." Local MYF programs are improving; so are worship services; officers are studying in training schools; leaders are also getting more training. The question: Is this a landmark in Oregon youth work?

$10,000-plus for MYFund

For the first time, the North Carolina Conference has topped its MYFund goal, which was $10,000 for 1953-54. Giving totaled $10,060.57.

For next year the conference MYF has been asked to give $11,000, and Faye Corbett, MYFund chairman, and Jim Long, treasurer, have been re-appointed. Plans include regular report to [illegible] MYF of its contribution to date.

MYF Roundup

◆ More than 650 young people from the New York district heard Dr. F. Olin Stockwell, missionary to China who was imprisoned by Chinese Communists, at a rally in Norwalk, Conn., in October. Youth from six churches made up a special choir for the program, and an offering of $172 was given for Methodist missionary work.

◆ "YOUth Can Do It" will be the theme of the Pittsburgh Conference MYF seminar Nov. 26 and 27 at the Ben Avon (Pa.) Methodist Church. The Youth Emphasis, MYF job analysis, resource materials and inspirational features will be included in the seminar, to be attended by about 90 youth and counselors.

◆ The speaker for the annual Jumonville MYF Institute Echo service in Pittsburgh, Pa., last Sunday is a flying pastor—the Rev. Kenneth Vincent of Vieques, Puerto Rico, who uses his own plane to get about in his missionary work. The Jumonville Echo service is a reunion of all MYF members and counselors who participate in institute programs at the Methodist training center near Uniontown, Pa., each summer. Last year more than 2,500 persons attended the Echo service.

◆ Five young people pledged themselves for full-time church-related vocations during a youth round-up in First Methodist Church, Hobbs, N. M.; MYF attendance doubled; and many more youth participated in church worship services. Jimmy Tingle and Reggie Iles volunteered to become ministers; Lowell Bingham to be an evangelistic missionary; and Sondra Maloch and Nedra Nash to be children's workers. The Hobbs church already has three-full-time workers from its ranks.

◆ New officers of the St. Louis (Mo.) Conference MYF were installed during annual conference by Bishop Ivan Lee Holt; Bishop William C. Martin, president of the National Council of Churches, was featured speaker; and the evening youth rally speaker was Richard Thompson, president of the National Conference of Methodist Youth. John Gillham is conference president assisted by Larry Meyer, Barbara Barney, Loxie Lambert, Wilson Yates, Marilyn Crumpecker, Sue Owings, Doug Sleade, Norman Emge, and Rosemary LaFever.

Miss Arie McDonald

Miss Arie McDonald of Woodstock Park Methodist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., won a title, and CONCERN won 30 new subscriptions, in the second annual Jacksonville Young People's Sub-district CONCERN beauty contest finals recently.

The attractive 16-year-old brunette, a junior at Paxton high school, sold 19 subscriptions to become the new CONCERN queen of the sub-district. She is a former president of the Woodstock Park MYF.

Saves own sight and helps others

A young optometrist in Chicago had two problems to solve—near-blindness and a name his patients couldn't spell.

Newton Uyesugi, Japanese-descent optometry student from Portland, Ore., discovered that he was going blind. Doctors told him contact lenses were his only hope, but at that time—1942—contact lenses were a new thing and became very painful after a few hours of use.

Newton moved to Chicago, taught in an optometry school, and opened a small office. His wife, Celia, went to optometry school so she could help him, as his eyesight was weakening rapidly.

George Jessen, a student in the Chicago optometry school, was experienced in lens grinding, and he and Newton went into partnership to try to make better contact lenses. An engineer, Jim Kawataba, joined the firm and found a way to turn out lenses of optical plastic on a lathe.

Six years later their firm, the Plastic Contact Lens Company of Chicago—produced a pair of lenses that Newton could wear all his waking hours—by that time his sight had become limited to the ability to see his fingers at arm's length. Now his eye condition is much improved.

Concern Feature

The other problem — the difficult name which couldn't be looked up in the telephone directory—was solved by choosing an easier name. Today it is Dr. Newton Wesley, chosen from Methodist history because Newton's father is a devout Methodist and so would more readily accept his son's change of the family name.

Dr. Wesley now is a licensed pilot, flying about the country to teach other optometrists to work with the lenses he has developed. His next field of attention is the correction of crosseyes without surgery.

Forum

To CONCERN:

Congratulations on your article in the Oct. 29 CONCERN, "He's a Christian in Politics." At least we seem to be breaking down the idea that Christians shouldn't meddle in politics because they're "dirty." I can imagine what kind of religion the Master would have founded if He had been unwilling to associate with that which was considered in His day to be "unclean."

It is heartening to see other youth who are interested enough in the choices our government makes to spend a lifetime in it; it is my contention that a person can be as much a missionary in the savage and pagan lands of national politics as the person who goes to the darkest portion of Africa.

Keith A. Tandy
Sioux City, Iowa

THINKING OUT THE NEWS

Getting straight on Nehru

India's Prime Minister Nehru, in the minds of many Americans, is an impractical, hard-to-please figure with "Communist leanings." This is a picture badly in need of correction.

Certainly, Nehru has his prejudices and his inconsistencies. And, like practically all national leaders, he is primarily concerned with defending the interests of his own nation.

To condemn one of the world's great statesmen because he is "not suspicious enough" of Russia or China is a foolish thing to do—and yet it is what many Americans seem to be doing. It is true that he does, indeed, make statements which sound as though he considers China's Chou En-Lai (pictured in the American press as a clever conniver) to be a great idealist who is helping to deliver his people from bondage.

But we need to look a little further than "statements of diplomacy" to discover just what Nehru's attitudes really are toward Communism and Communist China. Perhaps the Indian

leader is more polite in his diplomatic approach than are European and American diplomats today or, more importantly, perhaps he has a greater need for the friendship of China than does the United States.

Nehru, we think, has made these points clear:

1. He is definitely and vigorously opposed to the growth of Communism in India. As a matter of fact, his party has taken strong, definite measures to curb Communism internally.

2. He is a friend — and also a critic—of the United States and United States policy. He wants us to avoid anything that smacks of imperialism; to be more definite in our support of republican government, national independence for all peoples, and equal economic opportunity over the world; and, like himself, to repudiate alliances with "discredited" regimes like that of Chiang Kai-Shek.

3. Likewise a friend and critic of China, he wants Mao Tse-Tung and his government to stop all fifth-column activities in Asia and to recognize the rights of 12 million "overseas Chinese" in southwest Asia to drop their Chinese nationality. As *The New York Times* News Service put it on October 25, he asks "precise safeguards against Communist subversion in south and southeast Asia."

—By Claud Nelson, Jr.

VIEWS

Worldover Press says:

In Sweden, a progressive country, there is the same unbalance between political leanings of the press and popular opinion that you find in the United States.

Even under free ownership and operation, newspapers in Sweden have been found by the Swedish International Press Bureau to tally as follow:

78 for the Conservatives—22.8% of all papers, but the party gets only 14.2% of the votes.

59 for the Liberals—49.8% of all papers, but only 24.6% of the votes.

36 for the Social Democrats—16.8% of the papers, but 46% of the votes, and the largest party membership.

In the United States, over the years, the two major parties have been about even in numbers, but the press is substantially 82 to 88 per cent Republican.

Each can help prevent war

There are three things that each citizen can do as an individual to help prevent a recurrence of war, suggests Bishop William C. Martin of Texas. He says:

"First, he can refuse to commit himself to the fatalistic fallacy that war is inevitable. 'The will to peace' can be cultivated as definitely as the will to war.

"Second, he can devote his thought and effort to the elimination—at community and national levels — of injustice and ill-will which always breed and foster war.

"Third, each citizen can cultivate in his own soul the qualities and attitudes that make for peace. It is a waste of breath to talk about peace among nations as long as the hearts of men are filled with hatred, bitterness and strife."

Would you like to have **your** name on the "Friends of Concern" list? Send in five (or more) subscriptions. And we do mean Friends!

Worship Service-Watch Night, 1954

"All Things New"

PRELUDE: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," No. 67 in *The Methodist Hymnal* or No. 82 in *The Cokesbury Worship Hymnal.*

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND INVOCATION (by the leader): In a matter of moments, we shall hear bells and whistles, horns and shouts noisily marking the death of one year and the birth of another. Waiting for this elusive minute of change, we worship. We come together to sing hymns of praise and dedication, to confess our sins and to pray for strength. Let us pray:

O God, thou who hast created us and who knowest us better than we know ourselves, we pray for Thy presence here. Thou dost remember the good and bad of days gone by, and Thou dost know our hopes and fears for the days unborn. On this occasion grant us the spirit of reverence and true worship. Make us new creatures according to Thy best plan for us and our world. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "We Gather Together To Ask the Lord's Blessing," No. 20 in *The Methodist Hymnal* or No. 41 in *The Cokesbury Worship Hymnal.*

SCRIPTURE: Hear the word of God as recorded in the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians (3:1-6; 5:16-21):

"Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you, or from you? You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on your hearts, to be known and read by all men; and you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

"Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our sufficiency is from God, who has qualified us to be ministers of a new covenant, not in a written code but in the Spirit; for the written code kills, but the Spirit gives life . . ."

"From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once regarded Christ from a human point of view, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read by all): **"Our Heavenly Father, who by thy love hast made us, and through thy love hast kept us, and in thy love wouldst make us perfect, we humbly confess that we have not loved thee with all our heart and soul and mind and strength, and that we have not loved one another as Christ hath loved us. Thy life is within our souls, but our selfishness has hindered thee. We have not lived by faith. We have resisted thy Spirit. We have neglected thine inspirations. Forgive what we have been; help us to amend what we are; and in thy Spirit direct what we shall be; that thou mayest come into the full glory of thy creation, in us and in all men, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."**

HYMN: "Guide Me, O thou, Great Jehovah," No. 301 in *The Methodist Hymnal* or No. 44 in *The Cokesbury Worship Hymnal.*

In the Youth Emphasis of The Methodist Church this year, a special goal is to have a Watch Night service Dec. 31 in every local church, with all members attending as families. This service was planned by representatives of the Board of Education and the National Conference of Methodist Youth, and was written by Jameson Jones.

Reprints of this service are available, free, from the Service Department, Box 871, Nashville 2. Make your plans and get your orders in as soon as possible—these next seven weeks will pass quickly.

DIALOGUE (leader and two voices from rear):

First Voice (man, tired and rather bitter): I'm sick and tired of this old world. Day after day I get up, see the same old world. Day after day I get up, see the same old view out a dingy window, dress before the same cracked mirror, eat the usual breakfast, go off to school. I'm tired of it. No point to anything.

Leader: "And he who sat upon the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.' "

Second Voice (girl, vibrant and enthusiastic): That's the point—all things new. This is God's world, and God is ever at work, creating new things. Every day is new, with opportunities and experiences all its own.

First Voice: I've heard that kind of stuff before. **A new day.** But the new days don't seem much different from the old ones. The world plods on in circles, never getting anywhere. Same with me.

Leader: And God said to the people, 'Get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit."

Second Voice: That is what you need —to look at the world with a fresh spirit, with an eager heart. Each day you possess life and time. Daily comes a call to great living. The more we live the more we see purpose in our world. Our purpose is to love God and do his will. Our calling is to sow here the seeds of God's kingdom. We grow toward God. Open your eyes and see.

First Voice: Yeah, I can see. About all I see is printed stationery: Selective Service System. And those first words: 'Greetings! You have been selected . . ." I'm just waiting until that letter comes.

Leader: Push that thought aside. The most important letter in the world, as far as you are concerned, is you. You are a letter to be known and read by all men. You are a letter written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of the human heart.

First Voice: So what!

Second Voice: You are a child of God. He has made the world and all that is in it, including you. He makes the rain to fall. He paints the splendor of the dawn. He makes all things new. "New occasions . . .

Leader: . . . teach new duties." And we build this new day as we become new people. "If any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come."

Second Voice: Christian youth building a new world! Come . . .

First Voice: God helping me, I will.

Second Voice: Spirit of God, descend upon us, we pray.

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Turn Back, O Man" (words by Clifford Bax, printed in *Lift Every Voice* and available in stirring anthem arrangements), or "That Cause Can Neither Be Lost Nor Strayed," No. 169 in *The Cokesbury Worship Hymnal,* or "These Things Shall Be," No. 512 in *The Methodist Hymnal.*

SILENCE FOR SEVERAL MOMENTS

LEADER: Every day and particularly in hours of crisis and times of great decision, our Lord prayed earnestly that the Father's will be done. Our Lord faced life with courage and faith, completely committed to doing the Father's will. In his spirit let us commit ourselves anew. **Together, let us affirm our commitment:**

Believing that all life is a gift from God, and that God in this love and goodness ever gives new days and new opportunities, we commit ourselves to him.

Seeing the revelation of God in Jesus of Nazareth, who is the Christ, we crown him Lord of our lives.

Realizing the world's great need for the Christian gospel, we pledge ourselves to be witnesses of the Way.

Grateful for the opportunities of a new year, we dedicate ourselves to live in faith and courage, with hope and vision through prayer and worship, united in fellowship for the doing of God's will in our lives and in our world.

Let us pray:

Since it is of thy goodness, O loving Father, that another year is added to our lives, we here dedicate both our souls and our bodies to thee and to thy service. Forgive us what is past, confirm us in what is good, strengthen us for what is to come. Make us anew in the power of thy spirit, and grant that as we grow in years, we may grow in grace, and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ, who is our Lord and Savior. In his name we pray. Amen.

HYMN: "O God, Our Help in Ages Past," No. 533 in *The Methodist Hymnal*, or No. 196 in *The Cokesbury Worship Hymnal*.

THE COMMUNION SERVICE (with time for personal prayer and commitment in silence at the altar).

MYF BENEDICTION.

CUES

Americans asked to keep Christmas

Seem early for Christmas-type stuff?

It isn't, and that's just the trouble with "life in these United States," a great many Christian leaders feel—too many people have the idea Christmas is stuff. Commercial, and liquid, and glitter, and rush, and jolly old saint and ho-ho-ho.

Both the Board of Temperance (see bottom of this page) and the Board of Evangelism (see illustration, page 15) of The Methodist Church have produced a great deal of material emphasizing the spiritual quality of Christmas and asking Americans to abandon the "spirits" at the holy season.

Your group can join in the Christ's birthday emphasis by ordering material from the two boards (your minister, counselor or director should have samples, or you can send direct to either board: TEM Press, 100 Maryland Ave., NE, Washington 2, D. C., or Tidings, 1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville 5.)

Not too late to get packets

MYF groups that did not get Fall Action Project pamphlets earlier still may order them, according to the Board of Education.

If your MYF "missed out" or dragged its feet, send today for the packet,

which is full of material on "Youth in Their Families" in the Youth Emphasis — program scripts, an October *Roundtable*, a set of the pamphlets, "Helping Youth," for parents, and a copy of "Family Fun With Teen-Agers."

Order from Service Department, Box 871, Nashville 2.

"Faith for our day" reading theme

People in 40 countries will be reading the same passages of Scripture on Nov. 25, Thanksgiving Day, as part of the Worldwide Bible Reading Program sponsored each year by the American Bible Society.

Your minister should have material —especially the familiar bookmarks— listing daily readings from Thanksgiving to Christmas. Sunday, Dec. 12, is Universal Bible Sunday.

"Migrant meal" to aid workers

The first nationwide celebration of the Migrant Meal, to be in the next few weeks, is being promoted to bring attention to the many educational, spiritual and social needs of the two million men and their families who take to the road each year to harvest America's crops.

Planned by the Division of Home Missions of the National Council of Churches of Christ, the meal is to feature foods that migratory workers have picked or harvested.

It is hoped that local communities will come to a better understanding of migrants by observing the "Migrant Meal," proceeds of which will help the work of the National Council among migrants.

Programs and publicity materials are available to church groups from Migrant Ministry, Division of Home Missions, National Council of Churches, 257 Fourth Avenue, New York 10.

TV program aimed at youth

Did you listen to—watch—hear about the first fall broadcast, last Sunday, of the especially-for-y o u n g-people program, "Look up and Live"?

The half-hour broadcast has been planned to be of special interest to young people who are not now part of any church group. Dr. Charles (Chuck) Templeton is the leader, assisted by some fine musicians.

His Nov. 14 topic is "Parents Are Human, Too." The next two Sundays he will speak on "How To Get Along With People You Don't Like" and "Growing up Gracefully."

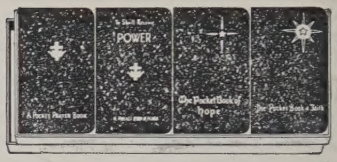
Check with your local station for the time.

GIFT BOOKS from The Upper Room for Christmas

Pocket Books in Gift Boxes

A Pocket Prayer Book
A Pocket Book of Power
The Pocket Book of Hope
The Pocket Book of Faith

By Bishop Ralph S. Cushman



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